

Claims

1. In a knotter drive arrangement including a knotter drive shaft, a plurality of knotter assemblies mounted to said shaft, with each knotter assembly including a drive gear having a hub mounted for rotation with, and axial movement along said shaft, and further including a knotter frame having a sleeve loosely mounted to one of said shaft and hub, and an adjustment mechanism spanning an axial gap between opposed surfaces of adjacent knotter assemblies and being selectively adjustable for spanning a greater or a lesser axial gap between said opposed surfaces of said adjacent knotter assemblies, the improvement comprising: said adjustment mechanism including at least one member mounted for axial threaded adjustment for effecting changes in said axial gap spanned by said adjustment mechanism; and a locking device for releasably retaining said at least one member in a desired adjusted condition.

2. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one member is a jackbolt threaded into one of said opposed surfaces and having a head engaged with another of said opposed surfaces.

3. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 1, wherein a second jackbolt is threaded into said one of said opposed surfaces at a location diametrically opposite from said at least one jackbolt.

4. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 2, wherein said locking device is a jam nut received on said at least one jackbolt.

5. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 1, wherein said opposed surfaces are respective ends of said hubs of said adjacent drive gears, respectively of said adjacent knotter assemblies.

6. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 1, wherein said opposed surfaces are respectively a surface of the drive gear of one of said knotter assemblies, and an end of the sleeve of the knotter frame of the adjacent knotter assembly; and said at least one member being at least one jackbolt threaded into the end of said sleeve and having a head engaged with said surface of said drive gear.

7. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 1, wherein said at

least one member is defined by a spacer received on said shaft between said adjacent knotter assemblies, and at least one jackbolt screwed into an axial face of said spacer and having a head engaged with one of said opposed surfaces.

8. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 7, wherein said spacer extends radially beyond said hubs of said adjacent drive gears; and said at least one jackbolt being located radially outward of, and parallel to, one of said hubs.

9. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 1, wherein said at least one member is defined by a spacer located on said shaft between said adjacent knotter assemblies; one of said hubs of said adjacent knotter gears having a threaded exterior; and said spacer including an internally threaded counterbore received on said threaded exterior of said one of the hubs.

10. The knotter drive arrangement, as defined in claim 9, wherein said locking device is a nut located on said threaded exterior of said one of said hubs.